

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for removing pollutants from an aqueous photographic effluent containing silver in complexed form and (or) thiosulfates, comprising the steps of:

- a) adding to said aqueous photographic effluent at least one agent able to (i) combine with the silver and/or the thiosulfate to form at least one compound of molecular weight M_x , and (ii) form a liquid phase and a solid phase in the effluent;
- b) adjusting the pH at a value in the range of from 3 to 6.5 ; and
- c) allowing the effluent to pass through a nanofiltration unit with a cut-off threshold lower than M_x .

2. The method of Claim 1, wherein the liquid and solid phases obtained in step a) are separated from each other before step c).

3. The method of Claim 2, wherein said liquid and solid phases are separated from each other by filtration, decantation or centrifugation.

4. The method of Claim 1, wherein the pH is adjusted at a value in the range of from 4.5 to 5.5.

5. The method of Claim 1, wherein said agent able to combine with the silver and (or) thiosulfate is a complexing agent.

6. The method of Claim 1, wherein said agent able to combine with the silver and (or) thiosulfate is a polyethyleneimine.

7. The method of Claim 6, wherein the quantity of said polyethyleneimine added is at least 1 g/l.

200708201001

8. The method of Claim 6, wherein said polyethyleneimine is added in an amount in the range of from 15 to 20 g/l.

9. The method of Claim 1, wherein said aqueous photographic effluent containing silver in complexed form and (or) thiosulfates, further contains wastewater carried out from a seasoned stabilization bath placed after a fixing or bleaching-fixing bath.

10. A method for the photographic processing of a photographic material containing exposed silver halides, comprising the steps of:

- a) passing said photographic material through a fixing or bleaching-fixing bath, and then through at least one washing and (or) stabilizing bath, and
- b) treating the effluent from at least one of said baths by the method as defined in Claim 1.

10044078-011002